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THE NEGRO FARMER

Vol. 2, No. 15 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA August 14, 1915

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ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

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The Editor's Page

HAPPINESS THAT RACE QUESTIONS CANNOT AFFECT

It is idle to deny that one's color and race have anything to do with his happiness particularly if he belong to one of the darker races. If all persons were philosophers, even wrongs and injustices would not influence their spirits; but since so few are of this select class, "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

But there is a sphere—a territory into which, thank God, race questions cannot intrude. I have often heard colored persons say in bitterness of soul that we shall never escape race prejudice until we reach the glory land after death. But there is a glory land here that cannot be invaded by "Jim Crow" laws nor segregation, insults nor any other vexations that proceed from the physically strong races against those that are weaker. We may call this happy place the kingdom of good conscience and of duties well done.

Good Will to All Men

Some fifteen years ago, I sat in the day coach of the Air Line Express out of Boston, bound for New York. Just as the train was about to leave the Back Bay Station of the Massachusetts city a small party of whites, composed of two men, a deathly pale girl of about twenty and a white-haired woman, rushed frantically to the coach in which I sat. They were almost too late, but were allowed to enter the coach at last. It soon became apparent that the girl was ill.

There sat across from them a colored woman—she was not a "black mammy," but a young woman of apparent refinement.

As the train rolled on, there must have come something into the face of the girl which caused the physician with her to take her pulse and begin counting its sluggish beats. I saw his face go suddenly white as he whispered to the girl's father, who slipped his arm quickly and tenderly around the mother's waist and, in turn, whispered something to her in whose arms rested the frail form of the girl—a woman's piercing screams, in rapid succession, rang out; and we knew that we sat in the grim presence of death.

Under the impulse of a common humanity, every woman in the car tried to answer that cry of anguish and soul pain. The colored woman? Did she sit still? Had she no regrets for the too youthful dead and no compassion for the grief-stricken parents then and there bereaved? Did she consider it white people's grief to be borne by white people? Was she thinking of lynchings and burnings and torture and proscriptive laws and injustices? God only knows! I know that in a moment the barrier of race broke down and she was taking the dead girl's body into her own strong arms; and while the tears poured down her own brown cheeks, was trying to soothe the grief-crazed mother; and no one said her nay.

Tactful Sympathy

Brought to the car by the screams of the mother was one of the colored dining-car porters who stood in the door long enough to see what was wrong. He, like every one else, was visibly touched; but of all people on earth, I felt that a colored man would be the last one who could offer aid without offense. The porter left and soon returned with a bundle of white on his arm. I saw that his tender heart was battling with his reasoning mind, for he came haltingly and doubtingly; but finally his heart won and with a tact and an understanding that were fine, he ignored all the whites and went to the woman of his own race and gave her linen for the shroud and quickly turned away.

Happy Because Still Human

Of all the persons who aided the sorrowing mother and father in that "hour and article of death," that colored man and colored woman were the happiest; because no memories of wrongs, no bitterness against the

race to which the dead and sorrowing belonged had crushed out of their hearts the benevolent feelings of sorrow, of sympathy, of compassion for persons distressed. I came out of that car chastened and thoughtful; but extremely proud that the two colored persons had given such splendid accounts of themselves during the travail and agony of two suffering souls.

When a Race Needs to Be Unhappy and Afraid

There may be some doubt as to the things done by one race to another which should make the latter unhappy; but there is no doubt on the following score:

A race needs to be unhappy—

When its members can hear a baby cry and not desire to soothe it, simply because it belongs to another race.

When its people will refuse a hungry man bread because of his race.

When a man would be refused shelter by its members because of his race.

When the sight of the sufferings of a person of another race does not move the heart.

In short, when the bowels of love, of compassion, of sympathy, of pity of its members are closed against the misery and woe and misfortune of people of other races.

Wherein a Race May Be Happy

On the other hand, a race may find almost complete happiness—

If it constantly strives to advance.

If its ideals are high-pitched on a plane where righteous desires obtain instead of selfish feelings.

If its capacity for love constantly increases and its race hatred steadily abate.

When it tries constantly to obey the law.

When it works for the welfare of the State.

When its sympathies and compassionate heart are as broad as human needs.

When it does not violate its conscience.

When it does not have to justify immoral, unjust and evil deeds to its conscience. When it does not have to invent for the ear of the world excuses for injustices to others, either above or below it.

When it wishes all men well.

When it can turn back the pages of history and find that the course it follows has been blessed and made prosperous in all ages.

When its members, at the close of each day, can truthfully say: "During this day I have not, to my knowledge, made the world unhappier."

Into such a sphere of living and good conscience, questions of race cannot make entrance and a people abiding there will surely be proof against the petty distinctions of race and caste.

—ISAAC FISHER.

Owing to the absence of the editor from Tuskegee Institute, a number of errors crept into the editorial page of the last issue—July 31. That is no excuse for the editor's not arranging so that they would not have occurred, but is merely by way of explanation. It is hoped that no one save the editor was harmed by the little slips.

SKIM MILK HAS HIGH FOOD VALUE

Nutritive Elements in Skim Milk Underestimated

Washington, D. C., Aug. 14, 1915.—Skim milk is a very economical food material in the opinion of experts in the Department of Agriculture and might well be more largely used as human food—this in spite of the fact that it is nine-tenths water. The argument of economy is based on the price at which it is usually sold and upon the composition of the remaining tenth, or the nutritive portion.

Whole milk, as everyone knows, is an indispensable food for the young, and even in the diet of the adult it is comparatively economical. The only nutrient taken from it in skimming is the butter fat. There is left, therefore, in the skim milk, not only all of the sugar, which amounts to about 4½ parts in every 100, and all of the mineral substances, but also all of the protein. The last-named substance is important because, besides serving as fuel for the body, as fats, sugars, and starches do it also supplies nitrogenous tissue-building material. The proportion of protein in skim milk, as well as of the mineral constituents, which are also valuable for body building, is even greater than in whole milk.

Since the nutritive part of skim milk consists very largely of protein, it is to be classed, as whole milk is, with such food materials as eggs, meat, fish, poultry, and cheese (though it is much more delicate than those foods) rather than with such substances as sugar, which serve only as fuel. Two and a half quarts of skim milk contain almost as much protein and yield about the same amount of energy as a pound of round of beef. When skim milk sells for 4 cents a quart, or about 2 cents a pound, and a round of beef for 20 cents a pound, a dime or any other sum of money spent for skim milk will provide nearly twice as much nourishment as it will if spent for round steak. Round of beef, of course, is one of the lower-priced meats and when compared with the more expensive cuts, skim milk makes a still better showing from the standpoint of economy.

ODD TEST OF SPECIAL SEED

There is now in the possession of the Department of Agriculture a pair of cotton gloves and a pair of cotton socks into the manufacture of which no machinery has entered. The cotton was grown from long staple Columbia seed sent out by the department a year ago to a farmer in South Carolina. The farm manager was interested in this seed, planted it by itself, and when the cotton began to ripen about the first of October picked 3 pounds of it himself. He then picked the seed by hand from the cotton, obtaining 1 pound of lint cotton. This he delivered to a lady in the vicinity, who carded it by hand, spun it into thread by hand and knitted from it a pair of socks and gloves. Such instances as this are encouraging evidence of the interest that progressive farmers are taking in experimental seeds obtained and distributed by the department.—*Weekly News Letter*, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Reducing the Cost of Living

The article below is from the Cornell Reading Course and, if carefully studied, will help the housewife reduce the cost of living.—Editor.

HINTS ON CHOOSING TEXTILES

BERTHA E. TITSWORTH

In former times family textiles were manufactured mainly in the home and the best products from the farms went into the making of them. As the population increased and economic conditions changed, these industries were taken from scattered homes and centralized in factories where the introduction of complicate machinery and systematized methods greatly increased the output and decreased the cost of manufacture. Woman has calmly accepted the release from responsibility, and too often has allowed the change to free her from all care as to the value and quality of the product that she must accept from the manufacturer and use in clothing the family and furnishing the home. One result of this indifference is that license has been taken in placing on the market materials of inferior quality, misnamed, and deceptive in appearance. In order to guard against this deception a general knowledge of the manufacture and the adulteration of textile fibers is necessary; and such knowledge will enable the housewife to obtain better value and better satisfaction for the time, money, and energy expended.

There are four common textiles: cotton and linen, which are vegetable fibers; wool and silk, which are animal fibers.

COTTON

The commonest and the least expensive fabric is made from the short twisted, seed-hair fiber of the cotton plant. The seed hairs are gathered, carded, spun, and woven into cloths varying in texture according to the weight of the thread and the kind of weave used. The supply of cotton usually equals the demand, so that the finished product may be put on the market at very reasonable prices.

A modern product is mercerized cotton, made by treating the fiber or the cloth with strong alkali and then rinsing it under tension. The resulting fabric is lustrous and durable, and retains its luster after repeated washings.

Adulterations

In spite of abundance of raw material and ease of manufacture, cotton fabric is often adulterated. Inferior qualities are made to appear of good grade by being sized with starch, gums, and china clay.

Imitations of linens and of mercerized cottons are often placed on the market and sold for the same prices as are charged for genuine material. In order to obtain the mercerized appearance, ordinary cotton is passed between two heavy rollers that give a luster similar to the luster of the more durable fabric under the name of which it will be sold. Such a process is called calendering.

Chemicals used in bleaching and in stamping designs on cotton fabrics often weaken the fiber to such an extent that cloth may become almost worthless if it is allowed to lie on the shelf for some time before being used. This is more likely to be true of cheap grades of cotton since less care is used in their manufacture than in the manufacture of fine cloths.

Tests for Adulteration

When cloth that has been adulterated is held to the light the meshes are seen to be filled with sizing.

If sizing has been used to a great extent, a piece of cloth rubbed briskly will show white powder.

If cloth is thoroughly boiled for a few minutes the filling will dissolve out.

Boiling and rubbing will remove the calendered polish from the so-called linens and mercerized cottons.

If a sample that is thought to have been weakened by the action of bleaching chemicals is torn, its weakness will be easily detected.

Suggestions

Cotton fiber is covered by cotton wax, which serves as a protective coat and renders cotton material very slow in absorbing water. For this reason cotton dish-towels are unsatisfactory. If a cloth to absorb moisture is desired,it must be made of a fiber that is not water repellent. In absorbent cotton the wax has been removed.

Cotton is light in weight and inexpensive, and affords a most desirable fabric for general wear. It is especially desirable for undergarments and house dresses, since it is not impaired by frequent laundering.

Starch is absorbed by the cotton fibers as readily in the process of laundering as at the time of manufacture. It is therefore possible to keep the garments as fresh as when new.

Cotton fabrics shrink for the first few times they are laundered. The percentage of shrinkage varies with the type of fiber and the method of manufacture of the material. A loosely woven material will often shrink more than will a closely woven piece.

The ability to take and hold dye well renders cotton fabrics durable in color.

Since dainty colors will often fade in washing, it is desirable to set the color before washing colored cloth. Various formulas are given for setting color in cotton fabric. It is often best to test the material in two or three solutions in order to find which is best suited to the color. Any one of the following solutions is recommended:

1 cup salt in 1 gallon water.

1-2 cup vinegar in 1 gallon water.

1 tablespoon sugar of lead in 1 gallon water.

Best kinds of common cotton fabrics and their uses

Batiste.—A sheer lustrous cloth in white and dainty colors. Used for waists and thin dainty dresses because of its daintiness.

Calico.—Cotton cloth with a design printed on one side. Used for inexpensive dresses, aprons, and wrappers because of its low cost, its durability, and the ease with which it is laundered.

Cambric.—Plain weave with a smooth finish on one side. Used for linings and for underwear when a moderate weight is desired. Berkeley cambric is a fine quality that is used for underwear.

Canton Flannel.—Heavy cloth with twilled surface on one side and soft nap on the other. Used for children's underwear because of warmth and durability, and for linings in order to add warmth to other garments.

Flannelette.—Soft cloth with nap on both sides of weave and with figures printed on plain backgrounds. Used because of warmth, low cost, and ease of laundering, for nightgowns, underwear, and children's wrappers.

Gingham.—Plain weave with warp and woof of variously colored threads that form plaids and stripes. Used for dresses, aprons, and shirts.

Galatea.—A heavy, firm weave with design printed on one side. Used for children's clothes, outing suits, and the like, when a cloth of strength and durability is desired.

Long Cloth.—Soft, firm fabric with a close weave. Used for children's dresses, aprons, and underwear. Made in many qualities. This cloth is used when softness and lightness of weight are desirable.

Lawn.—Light-weight, sheer cloth that is usually well sized. Used for dresses, aprons, and curtains because of its sheer quality.

Madras.—Firm, close weave with stripes and figures in colors on a white background. Used for dresses, shirts, and shirtwaists because of its novelty in design, weave, and color combinations.

Muslin.—A plain weave made in several qualities, bleached and unbleached. Used for sheets, dresses, and underwear when strength and durability are primary objects.

Percale.—A firm, closely woven cloth. Used for dresses, shirts, and aprons because of durability, ease of laundering, and relatively low cost.

LINEN

In olden times linen was used for many of the needs of the family, but today cotton has largely supplanted it for common uses.

Linen is made from the long, lustrous fiber obtained from the stock of the flax plant grown in European countries and to some extent in America. Linen fibers are rich-looking and are woven into a fabric that finds many uses, according to its weight and weave. The luster of the fiber enables it to shed soil easily, but its tendency to become easily wrinkled is often an objection to its use in the wardrobe.

Since linen is difficult to dye and its colors often fade, it is economical to buy colors that are likely to be durable.

Flax fiber is expensive to grow and to manufacture and the finished product must demand a good price. If high prices are paid for linen, the purchasers should be able to know that pure linen will be delivered.

Adulterations

Damask and dress linens often contain large percentages of mercerized or calendered (an imitation of mercerized) cotton. It is difficult to distinguish between the two when they are starched and well finished, so that the buyer is often deceived.

Tests for Adulterations

Linen threads break with an uneven, pointed end, whereas cotton threads break with an even-tufted end.

If cotton and linen fabrics are briskly rubbed between the fingers, the surface of the linen will be smooth, while the surface of the cotton will be rough owing to the many ends of short fibers.

A drop of olive oil, or any similar oil, may be placed on a sample of cloth to be tested and the cloth laid between two blotters. If the cloth is linen the spot will be translucent; if it is cotton the spot will appear opaque.

Suggestions

Linen fiber absorbs moisture readily; it is therefore very suitable for towelings and for other materials that are used to remove moisture from surfaces. This power of absorption is the cause of the complete absorption of light oils by linen and the resulting transparency.

Its durability makes this fiber desirable in dress-goods fabrics as well as in sail cloths, canvas, and sacking.

Linen is more easily disintegrated than cotton, and therefore does not withstand the action of boiling alkali solutions, bleaching powder, and oxidizing agents. This characteristic, together with its slow reaction to dyestuff, makes it difficult to obtain a fast color that will take hold of the fiber. Natural color and white are therefore more likely to give complete satisfaction than any applied color in linen fabrics.

The luster of the linen fiber makes the fabric desirable for table linen, dresses, and dainty pieces of fancy work. The rich texture and satisfying designs in the weave are pleasing. Its tendency to shed dirt makes it a very useful fabric.

Rich, heavy materials of linen are soft, drape gracefully, and are useful for hangings.

Linen should be used for

Dish towels, because it absorbs moisture readily.

Tablecloths, because of its beautiful texture and the fact that it sheds soil readily.

Household fancy work, because of its whiteness and the permanency of its bleach.

Summer dresses, because it is beautiful and cool, and because of the absorption and the consequent evaporation of moisture.

Kinds of linen fabrics and their uses

Butcher's Linen.—A heavy, coarse weave. Used for butcher's aprons, and for dress skirts because it is durable, attractive and inexpensive.

Cambric.—A fine fabric. Used for dresses and handkerchiefs because of its sheer texture.

Crash.—A coarse weave. Used for toweling, dresses, and upholstery. It is rough and lends itself to various artistic uses because of its effectiveness.

Damask.—A fine satin weave with figured designs. Used for towels, tablecloths, and napkins because of its beauty and its power to shed dirt.

Huckerback.—An uneven weave with much of the woof showing. Used for toweling because of its rough surface, which easily absorbs moisture and causes the skin to glow.

Handkerchief Linen.—A firm weave. Used for babies' dresses and for handkerchiefs. It is very fine and dainty.

Linen Lawn.—A sheer weave. Used as cambric and handkerchief linen.

Sheeting.—A wide, firm weave. Used for bed sheets, dresses, and suits because of its durability and beauty.

WOOL

Wool comes from the backs of sheep, and it plays an important part in our textile industry. The fiber is curly, has a scaly structure, and is slightly elastic although not very strong. The scaly surface gives wool the property of felting, or the matting together of wool fibers by the interlocking of the projecting edges of the scales.

Adulterations

Since the demands for raw wool greatly exceeds the supply, various means are used to adulterate the fabrics. Many of the wool garments on the market today are made of shoddy, which consists of odds and ends obtained from the factory, the tailor, and the rag-picker—almost any wool fiber, long enough to have two ends, is used in making woolens. The use of shoddy makes it possible for the supply of woolen goods to be as large as it is today. If new wool alone were used, the supply of

materials would be so far below the demand that many persons would have to go without warm woolen clothing.

The objection to the use of shoddy is that often materials sold for high prices and supposed to be of new wool are made for the most part from old, short wool, and the customer is not receiving what he asks and pays for. Besides, the materials made from a large percentage of shoddy are not so durable as those made from new wool, although they are as warm as, if not warmer than, those from closely woven new wool.

Cotton treated to appear like wool, is used in large quantities to adulterate wool.

Tests for Adulterations

The ends of broken threads of wool fibers will appear kinky, wiry, and uneven when compared with the even, tufted ends of cotton fibers.

Wool fibers pull apart when broken, while cotton fibers snap.

If a match is touched to these fibers, a slow burning of wool and a crisp ball of ash result, with the characteristic odor of burning hair. This should be compared with the brisk crackling of cotton, from which practically no ash results.

Animal fiber dissolve readily in weak, hot solution of caustic potash, or potash lye. If a sample boiled in this solution is completely dissolved, it is wool. If it is part cotton, the wool fibers will disappear and the cotton fibers will remain.

Woolens

Woolens are made of short, staple, wool fibers that have been carded and spun into yarn with the threads lying in all directions. The cloth is often heavily felted, or matted, so that it is easy to hide cotton threads in the weave underneath the felting.

Albatross.—A soft, loose weave. Used for dresses because of its warmth and lightness of weight as well as its moderate cost.

Blankets.—A combed wool with nap surface. A type of weave that enables the fabric to hold a large amount of air in the meshes and thus to retain warmth.

Broadcloth.—A closely woven fabric with smooth, glossy surface. The fibers are pricked to make a nap, which is pressed down, leaving a beautiful finish. Used for suits and dresses because of its beauty, durability, and warmth.

Cheviot.—A twilled weave with both rough and smooth finish; heavier than serge. Used for suitings because of its durability and warmth.

Covet.—A heavy, twilled cloth. Used for overcoats and suits. Easily pressed and more able to shed water than most woolen fabrics.

Eiderdown.—A soft napped fabric with a very heavy pile. Used for wrappers because of its softness and warmth. Often contains cotton.

Flannel.—A plain weave. Used for children's clothes, petticoats, and dresses because it is soft, warm, inexpensive, and not irritating to the skin.

Homespun.—A rough, loose material. Used for men's suits and women's dresses because of warmth, beauty of texture, and durability.

Tweed.—A rough, unfinished, coarse cloth. Used for men's suits. Durable, warm, and of attractive texture.

Worsteds

Worsteds are made from long, staple fibers that have been carded and combed until they lie parallel, and then twisted hard. The weave generally shows in worsted, and it is therefore difficult to adulterate except with long cotton threads that are easily detected.

Serge.—A twilled weave of different varieties. Used for suits and dresses. Very durable, holds pressing well, and is attractive.

Suitings.—A firm, close weave. Used for suits because of its ability to stand constant wear, hold pressing, and look well.

Many of the new season fabrics are made from worsted yarn and are sold under various names according to the weave.

Suggestions

The scales on the wool fiber, together with the elastic nature of the fibers itself, cause the manufactured materials to be porus and capable of holding air in their meshes. Since air is a poor conductor of heat, this aids the retention of body warmth without hindering the evaporation of perspiration. For this reason, woolen clothes are desirable for winter wear in cold climates.

As compared with other textile fibers, wool is light in weight in proportion to its warmth.

Wool absorbs moisture very slowly. It retains drops of moisture on the outside fibers, and the lustrous surface of these fibers often causes the drops to slide off. Thus it actually sheds moisture.

The durability of materials made from wool is due to the elastic nature of the fiber.

Wools absorb dyestuffs readily and ordinarily retain them in their original color during the full life of the fiber.

The felting, or matting, quality of wool is much increased by treating the wool with acid or alkaline solution or even with boiling water. Such treatment softens the fiber and opens up the scales to such an extent that, when the fabric is cooled or dried, the fibers interlock more firmly than under ordinary conditions. It is therefore best to wash woolens in lukewarm water and to use mild soap in the water. In washing woolens friction should never be permitted, since it roughens the scales, causes their interlocking, and hence results in a shrinkage of the material. Wool should always be washed by squeezing the cloth between the hands and by moving it back and forth in the water.

It is economical to buy good worsted fabrics for the following reasons:

They are made from new, long, wool fibers and therefore make a strong fabric.

They seldom contain shoddy.

They hold in place well when pressed.

They are firmly woven and are not easily frayed.

They will endure constant wear for more than one season and, if cared for, will look well as long as they last.

Their colors are fast and are less likely to fade than those of cheaper materials made from wool.

SILK

The fiber that is the finest and most lustrous of all is that spun by the silkworm as it makes its cocoon. One filament of silk may be as long as four thousand feet, and about five double filaments are required in order to make up the thickness of a strand of raw silk. These long, perfect filaments are taken from the cocoon when the silkworm has been killed by the heat. If the moth is allowed to hatch, the filament is broken

in many places and a second-grade product, called spun silk, must be made from the less lustrous, broken fibers.

In the raw state, silk is sold by the pound. Three thousand silkworms are required to spin one pound of silk, and one to two pounds are required in order to make a dress. When these statistics are considered it will be seen why good silk must necessarily be expensive. There is a demand for a product at a moderate price, however, in order to satisfy which the manufacturer resorts to methods of adulteration.

Adulterations

Silk fiber has the quality of absorbing metallic salts and dyes without appreciably changing the external quality of the material. This process of weighing silk is often carried to the extreme, and the fiber is then forced to absorb even more than its own weight of metallic salts. This seriously interferes with the durability of the silk, and as a result the silk splits or falls apart before it has stood even a reasonable test of wear. The durability of present-day silk falls far short of that of our grandmothers. When rightly treated, the silk fiber is very durable.

Cotton threads are interwoven with silk, especially in sateens, velvets, and brocades, in which they may be entirely hidden.

Mercerized cotton is often used in silk manufacture, and its glossy appearance may easily be mistaken for the fiber that it imitates.

Tests for Adulterations

When burned, a sample of silk will give forth the odor of burning feathers that is distinctive of animal fibers.

If silk is heavily weighted, the mineral ash will retain the full size and shape of the original sample but will fall apart at the touch.

Suggestions

Silk is light in weight, has a beautiful luster, and can be woven in many ways so as to give attractive results in beauty of texture and design. It is for this reason that silk is desirable for the making of rich garments, hangings, and draperies.

The soft silks are less likely to be weighted than are the heavy, rustling silks, and are more durable.

General Considerations

The intelligent choice of textiles for the family does not in any way end the responsibility concerning them. That which is good enough to spend time, money, and energy in obtaining is good enough to be cared for.

All clothes should be carefully shaken and aired before being placed on hangers in the clothes press. If cleaning and mending are necessary, these should be done at once.

Coat hangers should be wrapped with tissue paper in order to keep the ends from leaving their marks in sleeves. Special hangers, or loops, should be attached to skirts.

Clothes should not be pressed too often, as the fiber may be weakened by too much heat and pressure; they should be pressed on the wrong side, except in steaming. In steaming a fabric, a dampened cloth should be placed on the part to be pressed, and should be ironed until it is nearly dry; then the fabric should be turned on the wrong side and pressed dry.

"Clothes make the man" to the extent that good materials, well made up and cared for, give the wearer self-respect and demand respect and consideration from others. It is well, therefore, that the woman who spends should know what is on the market and should be able to recognize good value for money expended. She should not allow herself to be led into buying sale specials and season novelties, which are often made for quick trade and are not durable. So much of the family welfare depends on this one condition of life that time spent in its consideraton will not be lost.

THE SOUTH AS A FIELD FOR BEEF PRODUCTION

The geographical location and the climatic conditions of the South are such as to make it a good section for cattle raising. The soils are so varied that what may be said in a general way will not hold true for all places or sections of this large area. They vary from light sand to heavy clay, or to the black prairie soils, or the stiff post oak. As a rule the stiffer the soil and the greater the content of lime in the soils the more nutritious the grasses are and the greater is the variety of clovers which will grow.

The Piedmont section of Virginia, West Virginia, western North Carolina, Tennessee, and northern Alabama is a fine grazing country, and thousands of good beef cattle are found there. The Shorthorn is more popular than any other breed in this region, and they do exceedingly well. The grazing plants are chiefly blue grass, white clover, red clover, redtop, and orchard grass. The cattle fatten very rapidly during the grazing season and raise excellent calves. Most of this region is free of ticks, and the losses from death are relatively small.

The black prairie section of Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, and the Delta lands of Mississippi and Louisiana, are extremely favorable sections for raising and finishing beef cattle. Experiments conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Alabama Experiment Station show that cattle when kept free of the cattle tick can be raised at a cost of 3 to 4 cents a pound. This cost includes the keep of the cow for one year, charges for pasture and all feeds consumed at market prices, depreciation in the value of the herd, and 6 per cent interest on the money invested. The principal native grasses which are indigenous to these soils are Bermuda, Johnson grass, Lespedeza, and Melilotus; but red clover, alsike clover, bur clover, and white clover grow readily when planted in the pastures, and the grazing season can be extended greatly by their use. Alfalfa, soy beans, cowpeas, corn, sorghum, and other forage crops do well on these lands and produce an abundance of roughage and hays for wintering and fattening the cattle. The red clay soils produce crops very similar to those mentioned for the prairie soils.

There are great areas of "cut-over" lands in the South that range in price from $2 to $10 per acre which could be used for beef production. The soil of such lands is usually sandy or post-oak, neither of which are as good for grazing as the prairie or delta lands, but which would furnish good grazing if a little care was taken in getting pasture plants started. On these soils carpet grass, Bermuda, Lespedeza, white clover, redtop, *Paspalum dilatatum*, and bur clover do exceedingly well. The carpet grass furnishes abundant grazing on the sandy lands while the Bermuda does better on the soils which are a little stiff. The paspalum, white clover, and redtop do well on the damp lands, and if some lime is present alsike clover will furnish fine grazing. The foundation of all pastures on sandy or sandy loam lands should be carpet grass, Bermuda, and Lespedeza. The variety of forage

crops which may be raised on this type of soils is large, and it is an easy matter to grow all the hays, silage crops, and forage necessary for feeding the stock which may be kept on the farm.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the cattle industry of the South has been the presence of the cattle tick that transmits Texas fever, which kills many of the cattle and stunts others in growth. The tick is rapidly being eradicated, and it is only a question of time until the South is freed of this pest.

The native cattle of the South are cold-blooded scrubs, carrying a variable percentage of Jersey blood. They are small in size and inferior in quality, but they have stamina and the cows produce good calves when bred to a beef bull. Some of these cows weighing not over 600 pounds have given birth to half-breed calves which have developed into 500 to 600 pound animals at 12 to 13 months of age.

They usually weigh about 800 to 850 pounds at 2 years of age when raised under the average Southern farm conditions. The half-breed calves do not fatten out as well as calves of a higher grade, but if permitted to grow until 2 or 3 years of age they finish out as very good beef animals. The half-breed heifers when bred to beef bulls usually produce excellent calves.

No section of the country can raise cattle as cheaply as the South, and the variety and prices of feeds are such that the animals can be economically finished for the market. The forage plants, especially sorghum and corn, make such luxuriant growth in the southern latitudes that large yields of silage can be produced per acre. The silage is an excellent feed for wintering the breeding herd, or for finishing animals for the market. The use of silage in a fattening ration almost invariably increases the size of the daily gains, cheapens the gains, lengthens the period during which cattle can be fed cottonseed meal economically and without danger, and results in better finish, fatter cattle, and greater profits per head. The leguminous hays, as alfalfa, cowpea, Lespedeza, red clover and vetch, and the corn stover and oat straw are good rough feeds to use in conjunction with silage.

The Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus Hereford, Red Polled, and Devon breeds of cattle all do well in the South. The Shorthorn does well on all lands where the pastures are good and feed is plentiful. The cows usually prove to be very good milkers, giving milk enough for the calf and to supply the home as well. The result of the good milking qualities of the cows is usually a good growthy calf. The Herefords and Angus are good grazers and will do well under range conditions, as well as on the small farm. The Hereford stands ahead of all breeds as a range animal, but the Angus have the advantage over all breeds in the feed lot, as they finish out very smoothly, are high in quality, and kill out a high percentage of marketable meat. The Devon is slower of growth than the other breeds, but are great rustlers and fatten on pastures which are so thin that some of the beef breeds could hardly subsist. The Red Polled is a dual purpose breed which ranks next to the milking strain of Shorthorns in the production of milk and beef. They are not as well known, nor as popular as the Shorthorn, but have done well wherever tried in the South. Any of the breeds cross well with the native cattle, and can be used advantageously in breeding up the scrub herd.

By the eradication of the cattle tick, the use of good, pure-bred beef bulls, the improvement of the pasture lands, and a closer study of the cattle business, the South will develop into a great cattle-raising section, and should contribute largely to the supply of meat in the next two decades. In no case should high-priced, high-bred stock be brought from tick-free territory until the farm upon which they are to be kept has been rid of ticks.—*Weekly News Letter, U. S. Department of Agriculture.*

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

Colored Heroes of the Farm

Making Farming Pay

By JAKE SIMMONS, of Haskell, Oklahoma, as told to the National Negro Business League

"I am a farmer, also a stock raiser. I raise cattle, hogs, horses, chickens, etc. I came from the South out here to Muskogee as an orphan boy. I first started as a cowboy, made my home with the Indians in 1880; got to working for Six Dollars a month; worked about five or six months, when I got a letter telling me to come home, that my grandma was very sick and expected to die; after her health got better, I'm glad to say, I came back to Oklahoma and got a job on a farm that paid me $12 a month and board; worked for five or six months longer, my grandmother took sick again and I had to spend all I had saved in making another trip back home; came out to Muskogee and went to work at $20 a month, saved all I could, being employed on a farm ranch, and got married within four or five years, being anxious to settle down and make a little home of my own. I married and got along nicely, in fact I believe that by marrying it helped to make a man out of me. (Applause.) After I married they raised me to $40 a month, and I worked on the ranch farm for one year longer. Then I struck out for myself; went out and tried farming that year—in 1886. Everything looked bright for me at first, but about the time I got my crops laid by, a big hailstorm came along and tore up nearly everything I had planted, and left me almost flat; that coming fall I was so badly fixed I didn't know what in the world to do; I even had to ask the boss man at the place I formerly worked for a loan of $80 to help tide me over; I got the money readily and didn't forget to pay it back. (Laughter and applause.) Then just as luck would have it, a fellow came along and I got a contract to furnish a lot of rails to be bought and delivered at his expense. I bought and mauled out the rails, put them on the freight cars, came down to Muskogee, my expenses all paid, and cleared on that deal $100 after all expenses were paid. Then I got back to cattle raising and was employed by the Choctaw Nation to buy cattle for them; I bought cattle for them on commission, and later started a ranch of my own.

Today I run my own ranch; have my own farm; own about 1,800 acres of land, cultivate 700 acres of that land. I have a large barn, 270 head of cattle, used to keep from 300 to 400 head of cattle, but on account of the corn crop failure, I sold some of them

off, and have sold them down close so as to reduce expenses."

(This farmer has a ten-room house buys and sells annually about twelve thousand dollars worth of cattle; raises nearly 1,000 chickens on his farm; has about nine families working for him; and has credit to the amount of $20,000 and more.—Editor.)

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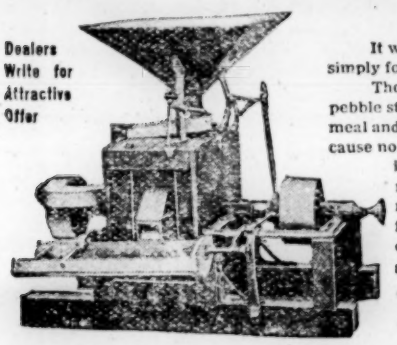

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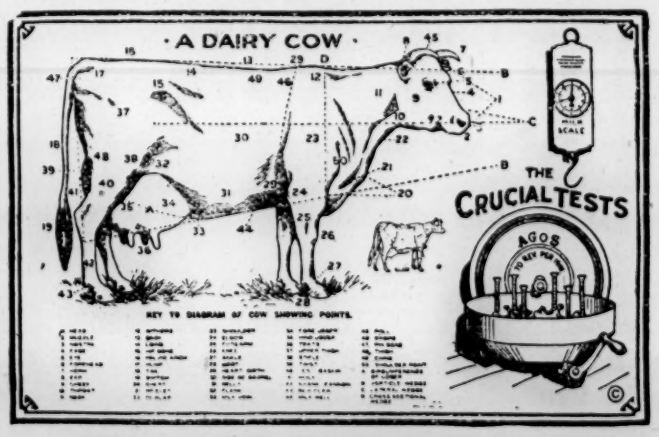

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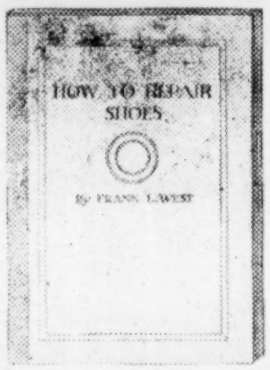

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